

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER & FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

DEC 15 2005

AFZX-SA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Accident Resulting in a Fatality -- Safety Alert 06-01

1. A Fort Polk Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident on Fort Polk while traveling at only 35 mph. The 30-year old Soldier was attempting to pass a vehicle when he lost control of the motorcycle; exited the roadway and drove into a culvert. He was thrown from his motorcycle face first into a telephone pole. Accelerating to pass a slower vehicle, a factor in his losing control of the motorcycle, was compounded by his inexperience as a rider. The Soldier was wearing all required personal protective equipment (PPE), but it was not enough to mitigate the internal injuries he suffered.


2. There have been eight class A-C motorcycle accidents on Fort Polk since 1 October 2004, resulting in one Soldier's death. Most of these accidents were the result of excessive speed, but speed is not the only factor riders need to consider.

3. Let's not have a repeat of this accident. Our Soldiers' safety is of utmost importance. The following actions will help to prevent future accidents:

a. When passing a vehicle, remember to look for a clearance in the passing lane and control your roll on the throttle to maintain stability of the motorcycle. Time and space management are essential to maintaining control of your vehicle. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation suggests you look well ahead while driving and constantly search for places to bale out or avoid an accident.

b. Leaders must stress the importance of adhering to safe riding procedures. Proper speed, riding experience, and situational awareness are all factors in safe riding. Soldiers must wear the minimum standard PPE and should be strongly encouraged to upgrade to a higher level of protection such as a full-face helmet and a motorcycle riding jacket with incorporated body armor and spinal protection.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON ALL BULLETIN BOARDS!


MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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A+



